

P21981.A03

Summary of Office Action

As an initial matter, Applicants note with appreciation that an initialed and signed copy of Form PTO-1449 filed May 15, 2002 has been returned together with the instant Office Action.

Applicants also note with appreciation that the Office Action indicates that the claim of priority is acknowledged, and that a certified copy of the priority document has been received by the Patent and Trademark Office in Application No. 08/320,408.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,224,694.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1-4

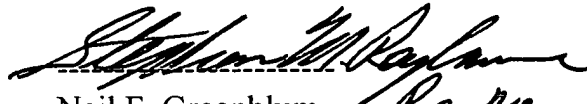
In view of the rejection of claims 1-4 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,224,694, i.e., the patent that issued from the grandparent application of the instant application, a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,224,694 B1 is enclosed herewith. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Georg PRSKAWETZ et al.


Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394
Reg no. 31,296

January 6, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191